

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK CBO PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

EAST VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

MISSION/PURPOSE

The East Valley Collaborative is a community partnership, committed to sharing collective knowledge and resources to enhance the quality of life by supporting youth and their families through education and the provision of mental, physical and social services.

MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 18, 2003

In Attendance:

Jose Soberanes, New York Life Insurance	(909) 888-1315
Sandra DeJarnett, First Nations Tribal Family	(909) 864-8884
Steve Kniffen, Somebody Cares Southland	(909) 463-6379 X172
Jonaye Thompson, Solutions Ed. Enrichment Center	(909) 875-5222
Susan Zador, Mail for Me Club	(909) 794-9676
Susan Melanson, Children's Network – Chairperson	(909) 387-5394
Marianne Vandermeudan, Mt. Baldy United Way	(909) 980-1994
Lori Carcich, Children's Fund	(909) 387-3036
Tracy Diaz, Family Service Assoc/Home Again	(909) 792-9626
Ed Rowe, Children's Network	(909) 387-8938
Tammy Williams, Children's Network	(909) 387-5365
Eustolia Hearn, Coordinator of Mentoring Program	(909) 885-1847
June Chandler, VOA Early Head Start	(909) 890-0661
Victoria Stephan, VOA Early Head Start	(909) 890-9877
Tony Diaz, Catholic Charities	(909) 880-3625
Joann Wilkes, Catholic Charities	(909) 880-3625
Ron Hernandez, Cameron Hill Aftercare	(909) 890-4301
A. Majadi, Bethel Community Outreach	(909) 730-9325
Veronica Ingersoll, SB County Public Health	(909) 383-3084
Matt Baca, SB County Public Health	(909) 383-3084
Millee Martin-Walton, Inland Regional Center	(909)
Carol Baker, Mt. Baldy United Way	(909) 980-1994X210
Gail Ousley, United Way of the East Valley	(909) 793-2854
Nick Watson, SB County Public Health – PALS	(909) 388-5600
Jennifer Celise-Reyes, JESD/Children's Network	(909) 433-3445
Denise Marshall	

1. Welcome & Introductions

Susan Melanson, Assistant Network Officer welcomed all those present. Mary Jaquish is out-of-town and could not make it to the meeting today.

2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

No additions or deletions.

3. Approval of January Minutes

The minutes were accepted as presented.

Susan Melanson made the following announcements: please review your agenda packet as it has all the funding information listed and you can also go to the Children's Network web site www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/childnet. Susan asked the group to take a look at the assorted handouts/flyers on the resource tables. She reminded everyone about the Drowning Prevention Conference to be held at the Loma Linda University Medical Center for a cost of \$25 on **February 25th**. Susan mentioned to save the date **March 26th** for the Children's Network Annual Shine the Light Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Ontario Double Tree. The Honorees from last year are the selection committee and will be choosing the Honorees for this year. Child Abuse Prevention month activities start in March. There will not be any Family Celebration picnics in April due to budget cuts. We will be going out in the community to really get the word out on child abuse prevention activities and materials distribution. Please contact Sue Taylor at (909) 387-8966 if you know of an event that needs to be staffed with our materials. Local kid friendly businesses will be asked to make donations for children such as discount tickets, etc. The goal is to surpass the 400,000 pieces of material that were distributed in last years' child abuse prevention campaign. Susan mentioned she would come back to this group in March to do an in-depth presentation on Child Abuse Prevention Activities.

4. Guest Speaker Susan Culbertson, Training Academy – CSUSB Department of Social Work

Ms. Melanson introduced Susan Culbertson. Susan used to work at San Bernardino County, Department of Children's Services, Child Protective Services for many years and changed her career to get into training and teaching full time. Susan works with Teresa Morris, Director of the Public Child Welfare Training Academy..

Some of the highlights from Susan Culbertson's presentation were:

- Child Protective Services has a federal grant for training, so they deliver training to them on social services topics.
- Specific training can be collaborated with this group for a reasonable amount; so one agency doesn't fund the entire training.
- There is usually a current training schedule for Child Protective Services – Susan passed one out. She suggested contacting her office to see if there are any vacancies in classes you might be interested in and sign up to attend with her or her administrative assistant.
- Susan referred everyone to 'The Training Academy Community Needs Assessment' handout – she encouraged everyone interested to fill out the survey and return it to her.
- They can offer CEUs to training participants at a cost of \$25.
- They can provide training on a variety of topics such as child abuse and neglect, elder abuse, domestic violence and assault, etc. She would need to know what type of audience the training will need to be geared to, etc. The class size needs to be a minimum of 12.
- Susan referred everyone to a Save This Date flyer on the, 'The Fifth Annual Case Management Symposium' on May 15, 2003. It will be held at the Riverside County DPSS Training facility. She offered to send out brochures, once they are printed.
- Susan passed out a flyer on the statewide Latina Social Work Conference in October. Also, if interested she has information on how to join the Latina Social Work Network.

- Susan passed out a flyer on the MSW (Masters in Social Work) program.
- Cal-State will be starting in the fall a new BASW (Bachelor of Arts, Social Work) program – flyers were passed out on it.

Questions and comments: How often is training on child abuse and neglect scheduled? Susan stated it takes a minimum of 8 to 10 weeks to deliver training. Susan asked the group to pass out her business card to other agencies in need of training.

Susan Melanson mentioned that Jennifer Celise-Reyes from JESD would be joining Children's Network soon to work on the child abuse prevention campaign and the Children's Network Annual Conference.

Susan Melanson introduced Steve Kniffen of Somebody Cares Southland to do a short presentation. A separate sign in sheet is being passed around if you are interested in participating in a backpack distribution project. Children's Network will facilitate necessary meetings.

Steve Kniffen's presentation: He is a member of the Emmerton Healthy Start Collaborative, which is a very active, large group. Steve mentioned that 90% of the students in 24 schools in San Bernardino City receive a free lunch due to their low income. Steve posed a question to the group, 'How can we collaborate and partner together to send these children a more positive message to pursue their education?' Steve's idea was to supply the students with backpacks filled with school supplies and resource information for the parents.

Somebody Cares Southland was able to provide 9,000 children in Fontana with backpacks filled with school supplies. In Fontana the Police Department distributed the backpacks with the project being very successful. Steve mentioned it puts a positive light on the local Police Departments and is a very good form of communication for the parents needing local resources and referrals. It was mentioned that due to the budget cuts it is even more important to collaborate and partner to provide the community the best available resources. Susan encouraged all who could contribute to sign up for the committee meeting of this group on: **March 6, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at Children's Network office, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 2nd Flr., San Bernardino.**

5. Handouts and Round Table Discussion

√Susan Melanson of Children's Network mentioned: The goal is to have the monthly collaboratives meet for no longer than 1 ½ hours in respect for your time. Susan has breakfast tickets available for the Shine the Light on March 26th for \$10.

√Marianne VanderMeudan of Mt. Baldy United Way reported: She referred everyone to the handouts in the packets. Marianne mentioned she is the community impact clerk for the community connections project. The 5 local United Ways; Mt. Baldy, Desert, East Valley, Mojave Valley, and Morongo Basin United Ways are collaborating together to conduct a needs assessment with a comprehensive database that has local non-profit and government agencies. The database will have some of the following features: information and referral; volunteer information; donations in-kind; calendar with community forum; multiple features such as case management and disaster coordination with the 211 platform. They are offering outcomes training on March 19th and April 11th in San Bernardino. You can contact Loraine Ousley of Mt. Baldy United Way for further details on the Outcomes training.

√Lori Carcich of Children's Fund reported: Children's Fund works closely with county agencies through their daily referral program. Case managers are able to access services for families and children such as, but not limited to; beds, clothing, refrigerators, utility and rental assistance, etc. Their goal is to assist children who are at risk to keep them out of danger. They also have available through Orange County a Change of Life Foundation that will assist with requests for unusual items that can not be provided in other ways – a flyer was passed out with more details. Lori referred everyone to their flyer

on a vacancy for an Administrative Assistant in Children's Fund. The Children's Fund annual rubber duck race will be **April 26th at Guasti Park**. Please contact Lori at (909) 387-4949.

√Tracy Diaz of Family Service Assoc./Home Again reported: Tracy will bring flyers next month. Some of the services Family Service Association offers throughout the county are: counseling for homeless, and low-income families, drug testing, 2 meals a day, permanent housing, school follow-up and vouchers; utility assistance; food assistance; etc. Tracy mentioned if you could be of assistance, she may be contacted at (909) 792-9626.

√Ed Rowe of Children's Network reported: Ed chairs the Family Preservation Councils countywide. The handouts have information on one side and the referral form on one side. Ed encouraged all agencies that have families needing assistance on cases that could be discussed at the Family Preservation Councils to contact him at (909) 387-8938.

√Tammy Williams of Children's Network reported: On behalf of Mary Jaquish Tammy passed out some flyers and mentioned the Triumph of The Spirit at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, February 23rd. The next Grant Writing subcommittee meeting is on **March 5th at 10:00 a.m. at the Inland Regional Center**. Anyone is welcome to attend the Children's Network collaborative meetings.

√Sandra DeJarnett of First Nations Tribal Family reported: They are located in San Bernardino. Sandra mentioned some of the services they offer are; individual counseling, biofeedback, assistance with attention deficit and learning disorders of 0 to 12 year olds, parenting classes, anger management for women, clothes closet, pantry, emergency assistance, and court approved visitation. You do not have to be Native American to access their services.

√Jonaye Thompson of Solutions Ed. Enrichment Center reported: Their service area is Rialto, San Bernardino, Fontana, and Colton. Some of the services they offer are; counseling services, youth anger management, drug and alcohol counseling, resource center, emergency resources, Alive Program, occupational training for 14 to 21 year olds and job placement .

√Eustolia Hearn, Coordinator of the Mentoring Program reported: They are located at 547 North Sierra Way in San Bernardino. The Mentoring Program is through the City of San Bernardino. The program is operated through a grant from the California Endowment. They are always receiving referrals and work primarily with children at risk. They specifically look for adult mentors who are positive role models. Through the program they see a tremendous difference in the children they serve after only 3 months. The at risk children they serve are 6th grade to 11th grade. If you would like to become a mentor, Eustolia can be reached at (909) 885-1847.

√Jose Soberanes from New York Life Insurance reported: He passed out a flyer about the State of California Healthy Families medical insurance program. This is a very important program for low-income families.

√June Chandler of VOA Early Head Start reported: They offer services to residents of San Bernardino, Colton, Rialto, and Highland. They have home based services for prenatal care and children 0 to 3. They assist the mother with child development information and assist the children in transition to early head start.

√Victoria Stephan of VOA Early Head Start reported: They have openings for 12 pregnant mothers and they can have children that are 0 to 3. They have staff that make home visits to support the families with education, family development plans, resources, and ESL classes for GED, work skills program and various support programs. They can assist families that have children with special needs by coordinating services with the Inland Regional Center.

√Susan Zador of Mail for Me Club reported: Susan referred everyone to his or her brochure. They have their brochures in all the local hospitals in San Bernardino County. The purpose of their organization is to make sure children that are terminally ill are not forgotten. They send packages to the terminally ill children and encourage children who are well to write letters etc. to terminally ill children.

√JoAnn Wilkes of Catholic Charities reported: Some of the services they offer are: case management; counseling; immigration assistance; and emergency services. JoAnn will bring in a flyer to our next meeting.

√Tony Diaz of Catholic Charities reported: They have a contract with the Department of Children's Services for youth that are 18 to 21 to provide: career assessment; employment assistance; housing, clothing for males and females; etc.

√Denise Marshall reported: She helps feed the homeless at Secomb Lake and helps out at the Family Resource Center.

√A. Majadi of Bethel Community Outreach reported: There will be a free conference on February 28th and March 1st, at Frisbie Middle School in Rialto for African American men and boys. There will be a variety of workshops on; teen pregnancy prevention, absentee fatherhood, careers, single mothers raising boys, a hip hop talent show, rap show, etc. The hours of the conference are Friday evening, February 28th and Saturday, March 1st from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The conference is free with lunch and breakfast to be provided.

√Steve Kniffen of Somebody Cares Southland reported: He is the logistical and procurement director for 43 different organizations with 3 hub locations. Through the hub locations they partner with other organizations to provide hygiene items, food, and some services for the homeless.

√Matt Baca of SB County Department of Public Health reported: Matt thanked Susan Melanson, Faith Carter-Michaelson, and Mary Jaquish for their assistance with the collaboratives they provided in conjunction with the needs assessment conducted via a federal grant for abstinence only education at middle and high schools for students and parents. Matt's department will provide a full report to all of the collaboratives in June.

√Millee Martin-Walton of Inland Regional Center reported: They serve San Bernardino and Riverside counties by providing diagnostic and case management services for 0 to senior citizen with severe development problems such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, etc. They provide supportive services to assist the families to keep the person in the home and in school. They also provide a Family Resource Library run by parents with a variety of videos, books, computers, equipment, etc. They offer bilingual services as well.

√Carol Baker of Mt. Baldy United Way reported: Each year she gets calls to distribute large number of items such as chairs, frozen turkeys, etc. and envisions this information can be placed on the community connections for pickup and distribution to needy families. They offer outcomes training that are very important for grants. She was involved in chairing the local emergency food and shelter assistance, which distributes millions of dollars in the community. The money will soon be available for emergency assistance to families.

√Gail Ousley of United Way of the East Valley reported: She previously worked for United Way in southern Nevada and saw the community connections software program up and running very effectively for collaboration of resources and referrals.

√Nick Watson of SB County Department of Public Health, PALs reported: He is in the process of looking for funding and writing grants for the PALS program that deals with adolescents who are pregnant and parenting. They provide case management services for the adolescent and are involved with the other siblings to see that the same behavior is not repeated. They work with the families when the adolescent misses 20 or more days of school;resulting in sanctions to their welfare assistance.. Nick reported that more then 1/3 of the adolescents in this county younger than 19 are on assistance. In January 2003 the aid was cut to families that reached their 5-year lifetime maximum under wefare reform. The PALS program presently serves 2,300 adolescents.

Susan Melanson reported that all of the monthly collaborative meetings are provided the same funding information and share one presenter speaking on a topic of interest countywide. She suggests that CN also have one local agency highlighted monthly so that the members will know more about each agency for collaboration purposes. A goal is to have 2 presenters and a brief roundtable so that the meeting can be completed within 1 ½ hour's time.

Susan thanked everyone for keeping the meeting informative, and on time! Meeting adjourned.

2. 6. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, March 18, 2003
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

County Superintendent of Schools
601 North E Street
San Bernardino

Respectfully Submitted,

TAMMY WILLIAMS, Recording Secretary
Children's Network
/tgw